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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, this Nation places its trust in You. Your Divine Providence is most reliable; it is Your timing we find difficult to accept. Yesterday, poised for the launch of Discovery, Your people were ready to celebrate its climb to the heavens. But a technical indicator gave pause. The Nation stepped back while specialists reexamined their work.

We bless You and praise You for this revelation and the future safety and success it grants human efforts to explore the marvels of Your universe on another day.

Today, as the House of Representatives commits itself to the work of the people, may all be more sensitive to the art of timing. Grant Your servants patience with themselves and others until all helpful possibilities are explored and Your righteous will is agreed upon for the common good.

In You and with You the movement of lasting discovery is made now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOOLITTLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3071. An act to permit the individuals currently serving as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and General Counsel of the Office of Compliance to serve one additional term.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1395. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to provide authority for the Attorney General to authorize the export of controlled substances from the United States to another country for subsequent export from that country to a second country, if certain conditions and safeguards are satisfied.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

AMERICA'S STRONG ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the reality of the American economy in light of what all of the doom and gloomers have been saying. The facts are plain and simple: Our Nation is producing more, and our government is spending less.

The recent report from the Office of Management and Budget forecasts a decline in the Federal budget deficit. All along, House Republicans have had faith in the American people's ability to grow our economy and are looking to the future with confidence. It is our job in Congress to continue to hold the

line on spending to ensure the continued health of our economy.

The unemployment rate has fallen and is the lowest it has been since September 2001. Nearly 4 million new jobs were created in the last 2 years alone.

With sustained job growth, falling deficits, low interest rates and a booming housing market, America's economy is robust and getting even stronger.

Equally important are the numbers which show U.S. manufacturing continuing to expand. Durable goods orders are also on the rise. Consumer confidence is up with such spending accounting for nearly two-thirds of the economy.

The fact that I can stand here today and tout the success of America's economy can be attributed to the pro-growth agenda of the President and this Republican Congress.

SPARING FAMILIES THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, America has now lost 1,757 of our brave young men and women in Iraq. H.J. Res. 55, a bipartisan resolution, sets in motion a plan for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and will spare more families of our troops the ultimate tragedy.

We should know, too, the suffering which this war has visited on the innocent people in Iraq. By some counts, over 100,000 innocent Iraqis have perished in a war that was based on a false premises. Yesterday, 18 Iraqi children were killed by a suicide bomber as the children reached for candy and toys from U.S. troops.

Each day, as new tragedies unfold, it becomes obvious that the presence of our brave U.S. troops will not end the murderous onslaught.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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